

St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church

Sunday Worship Booklet

November 8, 2026 - 10:30am

24 Pentecost

Are You New?

We are **SO** glad you are here!
St. Andrew's is a warm community just waiting to love you. If you like, you will definitely **find good friends** here.

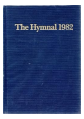
- This booklet is designed to help you fully join us in our worship experience. If it feels like a lot of words to follow, don't worry. Let go, and listen. It is perfectly OK to let us wash you with our prayers.
- Please fill out one of our **connection cards** (or use this QR Code) so we can let you know how happy we are to meet you.
- More info about the church and what we are up to can be found in the insert to this booklet.

The Word of God

Prelude Joyful, Joyful Medley

Hand Chimer Ringers: Melanie Penny, Christopher Pons, Noah Wren

Before worship begins, the priest greets the people and introduces the first hymn. The people stand, as able, to sing.



Hymn #579 Almighty Father, Strong to Save

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

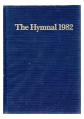
Procession

The Greek word in the new testament for church means "assembly." One of the reasons we start our service with a procession is to mark people coming together for this holy time.

Diving Deeper

Collect (Prayer) for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Hymnal S-278

The Collect (Prayer) of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Collect

A "collect", pronounced "COLL-ect", is a traditional type of prayer. It is written to gather or "collect" the rest of prayers together with a theme. There is a special collect for each Sunday of the church year.

Diving Deeper

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great

glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated for the lessons.

The First Lesson: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A Reading from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Psalm 78:1-7

Psalm is read/prayed in unison

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

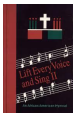
A Reading from Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are

alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able



LEVAS #60 How Great Thou Art

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Les Carpenter

Preacher prays, then all sit

The Nicene Creed

All stand as able and say the creed in unison.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

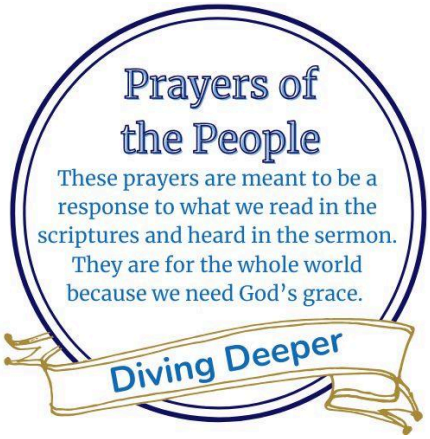
Prayers of the People Form IV

All kneel as able

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;



For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Sam and Jennifer our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. (Especially our sick and suffering _____, and those who serve in the armed forces especially_____).

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.
We pray for all who have died (Especially ____) ,
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another and offer their blessings of peace.

Welcome and Announcements

The congregation sits as directed, and announcements are shared. If you are new, this is a great time to fill out your Connection Card. There should be a paper one in your pew, or you can use the QR code on the front page.

If you want to give electronically to our church, the best way is to download the church's app (see last page), or you can make a one-time gift through the QR code here.

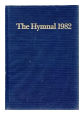


The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Music

Offertory Music: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

After which the people stand and sing the Doxology.



Hymn 380 v 3

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369)

All stand as able

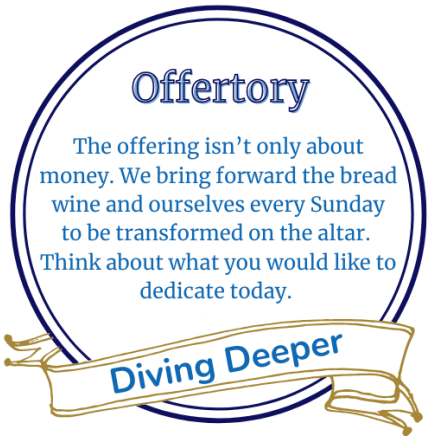
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

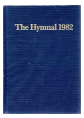
God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



Hymnal #S-129 "Sanctus"

The people kneel or stand

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People
We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.

The Celebrant continues
Lord God of our Fathers and mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Lea; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



LEVAS #264

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive
our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The people sit

Ministers come forward to receive communion before sharing it. The congregation follows as directed by the ushers.

Distribution of Communion Benedictus
Duet: Kimla Brandt and Brian Westcott

Post Communion Prayer

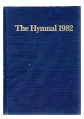
The people kneel as able

Let us pray,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

As you leave this place go forth in peace. Be assured that the past is forgiven. Know that the future is in God's hands. Return no person evil for evil. Remember the poor. Pray for the sick. And make no peace with injustice in this world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all now and always. **Amen**



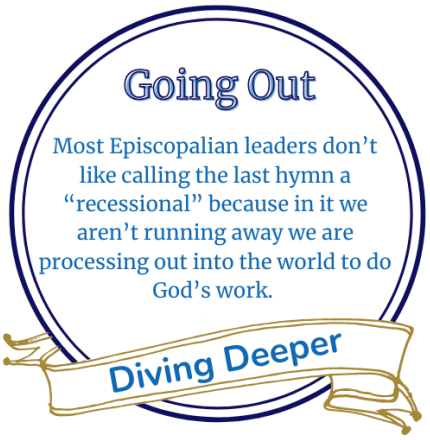
Hymn #562 Onward Christian Soldiers
Vs. 1, 3-5

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude Organ Voluntary





Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us!

We have two different regular worship services on Sunday, both of which include Holy Communion. Holy Communion is a sacrament using bread and wine. It reminds us of Jesus, His teachings, His sacrifice on the Cross, and His continued presence in this church. A few more things about Holy Communion.

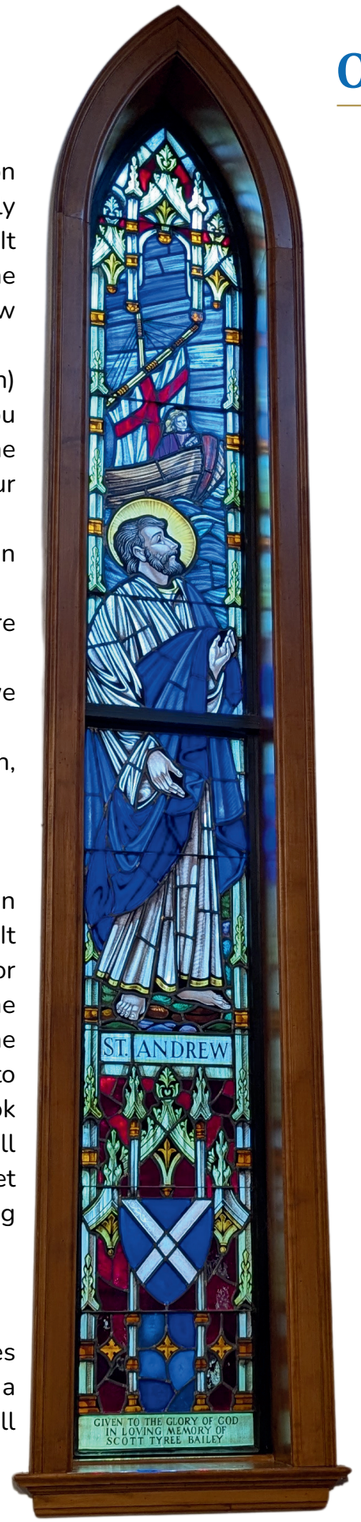
- All baptized people (regardless of Christian Tradition) are invited to receive Communion with us. If you prefer, you can come forward for a blessing. When the minister comes to you, cross your arms across your chest to indicate your preference
- If you don't want to come forward feel free to stay in your seat.
- If you have a gluten sensitivity, Gluten free wafers are available on request.
- If you have mobility concerns tell an usher and we would be happy to bring Communion to you.
- For more info on the basics of the Episcopal church, check out our "Priest Me" podcast on YouTube.

8 AM Rite I

Our 8 am service is smaller and more contemplative than our 10:30. Most Sundays, it is spoken (without music). It uses traditional (Old English) language throughout. For those new to this form of worship, it can take some getting used to, but it is also special to pray in the language of Shakespeare. For the service, you will need to use the *Book of Common Prayer*, which is the black book in your pews with the cross on the front. The priest will call out page numbers as we go. We also provide a sheet with today's readings, which will be helpful for praying the psalm and following todays teaching

10:30 AM Rite II

This is our principal (largest) service on Sunday. It includes music and singing in addition to prayer. We offer a "Sunday Booklet" to help you follow this service. You will also need the blue "1982 Hymnal" found in the pew.



Other Regular Offerings

Children's Chapel/Sunday School/Nursery

Children are always welcome in worship at St. Andrew's! To support our families, we do offer **nursery care** (0-PreK), and **Children's Chapel** (Elementary Age) during the 10:30 service. Ask an usher, and they will tell you where to drop off your kids prior to the service. Your children will join you for Communion.

Youth Ministries and Acolyting

We love to see our youth grow in service and fellowship with us. There is an active youth group. Indicate your interest on the Connection Card and we would love to reach out to you with more Info. Also, children and youth often participate in our Sunday Worship by serving as acolytes (Those in red robes with a white top). If you are interested in learning more ask Rev. Les or any member of the Vestry (church board)

Adult Sunday School

Meets at 9:15am in the Rector's Study. It is a lovely and informal Bible study. Join Us!

Getting Involed

We have so many active ministries, it can be difficult to know where to start. If you want to get more involved here, but aren't sure how to start, fill out one of the **connection cards** in your pew. We will follow up and make sure that you find a meaningful way to start. The Connection card is a way to make sure we have your correct contact info and you are getting the news you want.



Prayers and Celebrations

Prayers Requested

For the Sick and Those in Need:

Catherine
Lisa
Jinx
Teresa
Zanetta
Pris
Annetta
Cyril
Angela
Linda
Jay
Elizabeth
Sandra
Barbara
Dale
Roger
Tina
Donna
Penny
Helen
Mark
Denise
Donna
Carol
Clark
Nicole
Hope

For those serving in our Armed Forces:

Sean
Veronica
Matt
Eric
Bradford
Fletcher
Will
Rodney
Jonathan
Adam
James
Thomas
Austin
Landon M.
Dillon
All Veterans

For the Deceased:

On for Next Sunday? (check it out here)

8 AM

LAY: Pam Parker-Collwood
LEM: Tim Knapp

Food Pantry

Rita Coggins
Rosemary Clark
Missy Filliettaz

10:30 AM

LAY: Brandon Rollings
LEM: Forrest Mericle
Sandy Suggs
Acolytes: The Mericles
Ushers: Dan Melnyk
Don Mucci
Vestry Greeters: Jon Renck
Mary Ruffin

Altar Flowers today

are given to the Glory of God by
Jinx Abernathy
In loving memory of Wayland Abernathy



Announcements

We Are Blooming - Stewardship 2027

As we look ahead to 2027, St. Andrew's is preparing to blossom! Grounded in deep roots of faith and love, our community is growing through vibrant worship, expanded youth and music ministries, and hands-on local outreach. This growth is only possible through the faithful stewardship of our church family.

Our 2027 Stewardship Season begins Sunday, October 18, and concludes on Commitment Sunday, November 15, 2026. Please prayerfully consider how you are called to support St. Andrew's with your time, talents, and financial gifts, and bring your completed pledge card with you on Commitment Sunday as we celebrate all the ways God is helping us bloom—please join us!



Food Pantry Packing

Meet in the Parish Hall after the 10:30am service to pack food pantry bags.

Christmas Pageant Meeting TODAY

After the 10:30am service in the Parish hall. Lunch is included!



Advent Wreath Making

Nov. 29th after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited! We will do a potluck lunch so everone bring a yummy dish to share! Register on the app!

Wings of Love

October – Carriage Apartments: We are completing our Christmas bags for residents. Please make sure your bags are turned in by **December 6th.**

November – Thanksgiving Food Pantry: We will be collecting items to fill Thanksgiving food pantry bags, including turkeys, for distribution on **Monday, November 23rd**. If you can help, please contact the church office.

Substitutes for Meals on Wheels Routes

For anyone who is interested please contact Jan Thurkill 252-903-9330. It's the 3rd Thursday at 10am.

Healing Service

Wednesdays at 10:30am
Join us in the Sanctuary

252-443-2070
standrewsrmt.org



301 South Circle Drive,
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

24 Pentecost
11.08.26



Believe Become Belong

Led by the Spirit, we lovingly serve God through worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and ministry.

"Budding"

Today's Homily
Preacher: Rev. Les Carpenter